



Site Activities Update

Devil's Swamp Lake Site

East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

September, 2015

This Fact Sheet will tell you about...

- SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION
- REPORTS COMPLETED TODATE
- WHAT HAPPENS NOW
- QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS
- WHAT HAPPENS NEXT
- WHERE TO GET MORE

SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

Devil's Swamp Lake is a man-made, crescent-shaped lake located on the Mississippi River east bank floodplain, approximately ten miles north of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. (Shown on the Site vicinity map included as Figure 1-1). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers excavated the lake in 1973 and 1974 to provide material for levee construction along the north and west sides of the Port of Greater Baton Rouge Terminal (Baton Rouge Barge Harbor).

REPORTS COMPLETED TODATE

On May 2015 the EPA issued a Fact Sheet that presents the Superfund Process and describes the work performed during a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). Under the heading RI/FS Progress, investigations, sampling events and reports completed so far are identified.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW

On August 12, 2015, the state of Louisiana, through the Departments of Health and Hospitals (DHH), Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Wildlife & Fisheries (DWF), issued and updated the advisory for Devil's Swamp/Bayou Baton Rouge. This update is based on limited

sampling data from 2012-2013 and supersedes a previous advisory issued for the area on July 9, 1993.

The state agencies advise not to eat fish or crawfish from this area, and continue to advise the public not to swim nor participate in other primary contact sports in the area of concern.

DHH, DEQ and DWF are issuing this advisory under the Protocol for Issuing Public Health Advisories for Chemical Contaminants in Recreationally Caught Fish and Shellfish. DEQ and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Remedial Program will continue with the remedial investigation of the Devil's Swamp Lake Superfund Site. (Superfund Process Figure 1.2)

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Question: What are the contaminants of concern?

Answer: Mercury and PCBs.

Question: What is the source of these contaminants?

The specific source for the mercury is unclear, this is a large industrial area with multiple facilities that may have contributed to the presence of mercury. At this time, it appears the PCBs are related to the former Rollins facility that operated in the 1970s. The facility that currently operates out of the former Rollins facility is no longer discharging PCBs, and we do not believe any PCBs are currently being discharged into the body of water.

Commented [LAW1]: Condense into one pager that focuses on the process and activities. The questions could be broken out into a FAQ.

Commented [LAW4]: Community question: why did this take 20 years to update the prior advisory.

Commented [LAW5]: Extremely brief. Might add info from the advisory that describes types of seafood and contamination

Commented [LAW6]: This is a legalistic description of the process. If this is for the community, this space might be better used to describe the advisory, sampling or other direct activities.

Commented [LAW2]: Might add a better description of the area that people in the area would recognize

Commented [LAW7]: Brief, bordering on terse. Might add a sentence or two on the compounds or extent of contamination

Commented [DO3]: Confusing; please elaborate/restructure.

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Question: Is this area accessible to the public?

Answer: No, Devil's Swamp has several owners and is private property with difficult access. The Devil's Swamp Lake is located within the swamp, falls on private property and fencing located to the east limits its access. No public access is allowed at this time.

Question: I have eaten fish from the area in the past, should this be a health concern?

Answer: No, while eating small amounts of fish or crawfish in the past may not result in observable health effects, only prolonged exposure from frequent consumption over many years could negatively impact human health.

Question: Does this contamination impact the local drinking water supply?

Answer: All water in the site area comes from deep groundwater wells that are not threatened by the releases in Devil's Swamp Lake. In an abundance of caution and to alleviate community concerns, EPA, in coordination with DEQ and DHH sampled in the past wells that are a source of drinking water to the community and found no issues.

Question: How can the public be kept informed on current what's happening?

Answer: EPA and DEQ provide site information in their websites and EPA keeps a site mailing list where the public can register to receive future updates by mail.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

The first part of the remedial investigation, the Tier 1 RI report was completed on February 2012 and is available in the site repository. This

report covers sampling results for water and sediment samples collected in the swamp and lake. The second part of the investigation, the Tier 2 RI report will be complete by date and copies will be placed in the repository. This report covers sampling for fish, crawfish and additional soil and sediment samples.

The Tier 2 RI report also includes the Human Health and the Ecological Baseline Risk Assessments. Results of these assessments indicate that while birds, fish and small mammals don't show an unacceptable risk, the human ingestion of fish and crawfish from the lake could present an unacceptable risk if frequent fish meals are consumed over an entire lifetime.

The calculated risk numbers are low and fall within the target range within which EPA strives to manage risks as part of a Superfund cleanup. In addition, the EPA and state agencies recognize site access to the area is limited, and few crawfish have been found at the lake during the 2013 and 2014 sampling events. Nevertheless, the RI/FS will continue to move forward and a Feasibility Study (FS) will prepared to identify technologies and alternatives that will cleanup the site and reduce current risk levels.

This study will result in a preferred alternative that will be presented in a Proposed Plan and will be available for the public to comment prior to the EPA selecting a final remedy.

The suspected source of PCBs is a nearby hazardous waste site, originally opened in 1971 and operated by Rollins Environmental Services. This former facility is now owned by Baton Rouge Disposal, LLC. Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc., on their behalf, has completed a state ordered cleanup and

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Commented [LAW10]: Misleading. While private property, people can, and probably do, get to the area. This might be rephrased to indicate people should not enter the area.

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Commented [LAW13]: Confusing – risk to wildlife?

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Commented [LAW14]: Reword – awkward wording. “...Long term frequent ingestion of fish and crawfish from the lake could pose a lifetime risk to people.”

Commented [DO15]: Calculated by whom? EPA risk assessors?

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Commented [LAW17]: Sounds dismissive of community concerns. Might indicate next steps and time line.

Commented [LAW11]: Should this be “did not find contamination” or “did not find elevated levels of....”?? “...found no issues” is vague could lead to questions regarding what is an issue or raise other concerns.

Commented [LAW18]: Might use RI/FS instead of “study” and put in terms of examining options for clean up. The word “study” can trigger community outrage as it implies a long time away with no action.

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Commented [DO20]: On behalf of BR disposal?

continue to work with the EPA and DEQ in performing the upcoming Superfund studies.

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

Bartolome J Cañellas

EPA Superfund Remedial Project Manager
214.665.6662 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)

Bill Little

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator/SEE
214.665.8131 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)

Donn Walter

Regional Public Liaison
214.665.6483 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)

Keith Horn

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
225.219.3793 or 866.896.5337 (toll-free)

Site Repository

Scotlandville Branch Library
7373 Scenic Hwy
Baton Rouge, LA 70807

Local fishers or community members should contact DHH at 1-888-293-7020 with any further questions related to the fish advisory.

All inquiries from the media should be 214.665.2200.

Devil's Swamp Lake Superfund Site
www.epa.gov/region6/6sf/pdffiles/0600652.pdf
df Bill list the new EPA website for site info

Figure 1.1

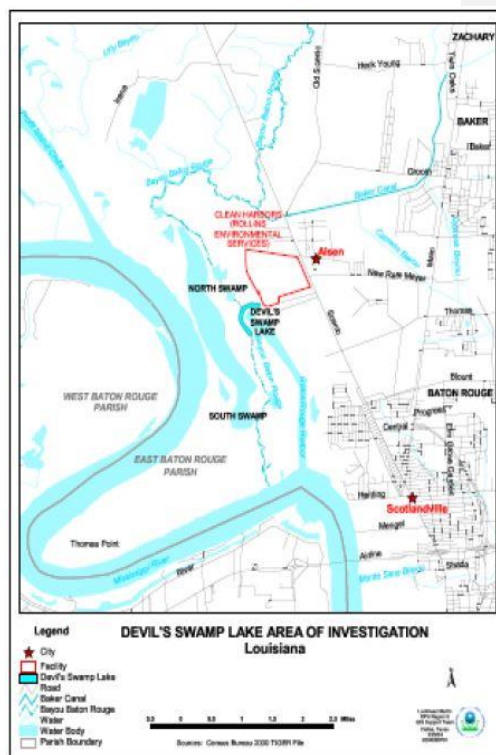


Figure 1.2

